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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Yes, the CIA Director Was Part of the JFK Assassination Cover-up

By Phillip Shenon

When JFK was assassinated in Dallas in November 1963, John McCone was CIA director. He was an important witness before the Warren Commission, the panel Johnson created to investigate Kennedy's murder. McCone testified that the CIA had no evidence to suggest that Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin, was part of any conspiracy. The commission agreed with McCone's depiction of Oswald as a delusional lone wolf.

But did McCone come close to perjury? In a 2013 report declassified last fall, the spy agency acknowledges that McCone and other senior CIA officials were "complicit" in keeping "incendiary" information from the Warren Commission.

According to CIA historian David Robarge, McCone, who died in 1991, was at the heart of a "benign cover-up", intended to keep the commission focused on "what the Agency believed at the time was the 'best truth'—that Lee Harvey Oswald, for as yet undetermined motives, had acted alone in killing John Kennedy." The most important information that McCone withheld from the commission in its 1964 investigation, the report found, was the existence of CIA plots to assassinate Castro. Without this information, the commission never even asked whether Oswald had accomplices in Cuba or elsewhere who wanted Kennedy dead in retaliation.

The 2013 report is important because it comes close to an official CIA acknowledgement of impropriety in the agency's dealings

with the commission. The coverup may have been "benign," but it was a cover-up nonetheless, denying information to the commission that might have prompted a more aggressive investigation of Oswald's potential Cuba ties.

Initially stamped "SECRET/NOFORN," meaning it was not to be shared outside the agency or with foreign governments, Robarge's report was published in the CIA's classified internal magazine, *Studies in Intelligence* to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination. The article, drawn from Robarge's still-classified 2005 biography of McCone is available on the website of The George Washington University's National Security Archive. In a statement to POLITICO, the CIA said it decided to declassify the report "to highlight misconceptions about the CIA's connection to JFK's assassination," including the conspiracy theory that the spy agency was somehow behind the assassination.

Robarge's article says that McCone directed the agency to provide only "passive, reactive and selective" assistance to the Warren Commission.

The report offers no conclusion about McCone's motivations. But it suggests that the Johnson White House might have directed McCone to hide the information. McCone "shared the administration's interest in avoiding disclosures about covert actions that would circumstantially implicate [the] CIA in conspiracy theories and possibly lead to calls for a tough US response against the perpetrators of the assassination," the article reads. "If the commission did not know to ask about covert operations about Cuba, he was

not going to give them any suggestions about where to look."

David Slawson, who was the Warren Commission's chief staff investigator in searching for evidence of a foreign conspiracy, said he was not surprised to learn that McCone had withheld so much information in 1964, especially about the Castro plots.

"I always assumed McCone must have known, because I always believed that loyalty and discipline in the CIA made any large-scale operation without the consent of the director impossible," says Slawson, now 84.

The report identifies other tantalizing information that McCone did not reveal to the commission, including evidence that the CIA might somehow have been in communication with Oswald before 1963 and that the spy agency had secretly monitored Oswald's mail after he attempted to defect to the Soviet Union in 1959. The CIA mail-opening program, which was later determined to have been blatantly illegal, had the code name HTLINGUAL. "It would be surprising if the DCI [director of central intelligence] were not told about the program" after the Kennedy assassination, the report reads. "If not, his subordinates deceived him. If he did know about HTLINGUAL reporting on Oswald, he was not being forthright with the commission—presumably to protect an operation that was highly compartmented and, if disclosed, sure to arouse much controversy."

In the 1970s, when congressional investigations exposed the Castro plots, members of the Warren Commission and its staff expressed outrage that they had been denied the information. Had they known about the plots, they said, the

commission would have been much more aggressive in trying to determine whether JFK's murder was an act of retaliation by Castro or his supporters. Weeks before the assassination, Oswald traveled to Mexico City and met there with spies for the Cuban and Soviet governments—a trip that CIA and FBI officials have long acknowledged was never adequately investigated. (Even so, Warren Commission staffers remain convinced today that Oswald was the lone gunman in Dallas, a view shared by ballistics experts who have studied the evidence.)

Philip Shenon, a former Washington and foreign correspondent for the New York Times, is author, most recently, of A Cruel and Shocking Act: The Secret History of the Kennedy Assassination.

-- Politico.com October 06, 2015

Gun-free zones are magnets for murderers

By John R. Lott Jr. / Contributing writer

Would you post a sign announcing that your home is a gun-free zone? Criminals don't obey these signs. In fact, to criminals, gun-free zones look like easy targets.

Since at least 1950, all but two public mass shootings in America have taken place where general citizens are banned from carrying guns. In Europe, there have been no exceptions. Every mass public shooting has occurred in a gun-free zone. And Europe is no stranger to mass shootings. It has been host to three of the six worst K-12 school shootings and by far the worst mass public shooting perpetrated by a single individual.

With dozens of cases where [armed] permit holders have clearly stopped what would have been mass public shootings, it is understandable that killers avoid places where they can't kill a large number of people.

The Charleston killer's first choice was to target the College of Charleston, but he chose the church instead because there were armed guards at the college.

The diary of the Aurora, Colo., "Batman" movie theater killer James Holmes reveals he was considering attacking an airport and a movie theater, but he turned down the airport option because he was concerned about their "substantial security." Out of seven theaters showing the "Batman" premiere within 20 minutes of the suspect's apartment, only one banned permitted concealed

handguns – and that is the one he attacked.

In late 2013, Ron Noble, the secretary general of Interpol, noted two means of protecting people from mass shootings: "One is to say we want an armed citizenry; you can see the reason for that. Another is to say the enclaves [should be] so secure that in order to get into the soft target, you're going to have to pass through extraordinary security."

But Noble warned that his experience taught him it was virtually impossible to stop killers from getting weapons.

Those advocating gun-free zones argue that permit holders will accidentally shoot bystanders. Or that arriving police will shoot anyone with a gun, including the permit holders. At colleges, fears are raised that students will get drunk and misuse guns.

Of the innumerable cases in which concealed carry holders have stopped shootings in malls, churches, schools, universities and busy downtowns, no permit holder has ever shot a bystander.

Nor in these cases have the police ever accidentally shot a permit holder.

Gun-free zones are magnets for murderers. Even the most ardent gun control advocate would never put "Gun-Free Zone" signs on their home. Let's finally stop putting them elsewhere.

-- ocregister.com Sep. 18, 2015

Study: Concealed carry is soaring

Guest post by John R. Lott Jr.

Since President Obama's election, the number of concealed handgun permits has grown from 4.6 million in 2007 to over 12.8 million this year, according to a new study by the Crime Prevention Research Center, which conducts academic-quality research on gun laws and their effects on crime and public safety.

Among the findings in the CPRC report:

Over the past year, 1.7 million additional new permits have been issued—a 15.4% increase.

5.2% of the total adult population has a permit.

Five states now have more than 10% of their adult population with concealed handgun permits.

In ten states, a permit is no longer required to carry in all or virtually all of the state. This is a major reason why legal carrying handguns is growing

so much faster than the number of permits.

Since 2007, permits for women have increased by 270% and for men by 156%.

Some evidence suggests that permit holding by minorities is increasing more than twice as fast as for whites.

Between 2007 and 2014, murder rates have fallen from 5.6 to 4.2 (preliminary estimates) per 100,000. This represents a 25% drop in the murder rate at the same time that the percentage of the adult population with permits soared by 156%. Overall, violent crime also fell by 25 percent over that period of time.

States with the largest increase in permits have seen the largest relative drops in murder rates.

Concealed handgun permit holders are extremely law-abiding. In Florida and Texas, permit holders are convicted of misdemeanors or felonies at one-sixth the rate that police officers are convicted.

--blog.cheaperthandirt.com, August 16, 2015

At UN Summit, World Rulers Adopt Agenda for Global Socialism

By Alex Newman

A United Nations plot to re-engineer civilization and impose global socialism, variously dubbed "Agenda 2030" and the "Sustainable Development Agenda," was ushered in on Friday with a "thunderous standing ovation," the UN Department of Public Information reported. Every one of the 193 member governments vowed to help impose the UN's controversial goals on their subjects.

The UN Agenda 2030's 17 so-called "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) and its accompanying 169 targets are essentially a recipe for global socialism and corporatism. Goal number 10, for example, calls on the UN, national governments, and every person on Earth to "reduce inequality within and among countries." As the UN document makes clear, national socialism to "combat inequality" domestically is simply not enough — international socialism is needed to battle inequality even "among" countries.

In other words, Western taxpayers: Prepare to be fleeced so that your wealth can be redistributed internationally. Of course, most of the wealth will be redistributed to the UN and Third World regimes — not the victims of those regimes, impoverished largely through domestic socialist

policies imposed by the same corrupt regimes that will be propped up with more Western aid.

The document, entitled "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," was adopted September 25, at the start of the UN's Summit on Sustainable Development in New York. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said, "The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere," presumably conflating "leaders" with mass-murdering gangsters such as Kim Jong Un, Raul Castro, and Robert Mugabe. "It is a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world."

"It is an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms," continued Ban. "It is an agenda for shared prosperity, peace and partnership [that] conveys the urgency of climate action [and] is rooted in gender equality and respect for the rights of all. Above all, it pledges to leave no one behind." But the "true test of commitment to Agenda 2030," he added, will be in its implementation. "We need action from everyone, everywhere," Ban said, pointing to the "guide" offered by the 17 SDGs. "They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success."

President Obama claimed the UN blueprint "is one of the smartest investments we can make in our own future." He said that 800 million people live on less than \$1.25 per day, without, of course, mentioning the reasons for so much poverty: Big Government policies that are remarkably similar in many ways to the UN's new agenda.

-- thenewamerican.com 28 Sept. 2015

\$2M Bail Set for Diplomat Charged in UN Bribery Case

NEW YORK (AP) -- Over a prosecutor's objection, bail was set at \$2 million Friday for Francis Lorenzo, a Dominican Republic diplomat arrested in a bribe-related criminal case that also landed a former president of the United Nations General Assembly behind bars.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry B. Pitman agreed Lorenzo could stay at his mother's Bronx home with electronic monitoring after agreeing to waive diplomatic immunity prior to trial.

Lorenzo was arrested Tuesday along with John Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who served in the largely ceremonial role of U.N. Assembly president in 2013. Ashe's lawyer has said Ashe expects to be vindicated on tax charges.

Prosecutors said the 48-year-old Lorenzo accepted and paid bribes to

help a billionaire Chinese real estate mogul influence the U.N. to support construction of a multibillion dollar U.N. conference center in Macau.

The billionaire, Ng Lap Seng, 67, and his chief assistant remain jailed. Ng's lawyer has said Ng was the victim of a misunderstanding.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Richenthal said Ng has financed a \$3.6 million luxury Manhattan apartment that Lorenzo has listed as his address and had helped fund a revenue stream that provided Lorenzo \$30,000 monthly.

Lorenzo's lawyer, Brian Bieber, offered testimony from three character witnesses, including Carlos Garcia of Union, New Jersey, a former ambassador to the U.N. from El Salvador.

"For me, he's a leader, promoting United Nations' status in the world," Garcia said.

Bieber said, "I am confident that when you see all of the evidence, it will be clear Mr. Lorenzo did not commit a federal crime."

Regardless, he added: "Diplomatic immunity very well may apply to some or all of Mr. Lorenzo's actions."

-- October 9, 2015

The truth about gun deaths

By Jazz Shaw

When the President went on television after the Oregon college mass shooting he challenged the media to show the number of gun deaths as compared to the number of terrorism related deaths since 9/11. The media dutifully complied.

Unfortunately, their numbers were dishonestly offered up with no context. Real numbers are available from the FBI and the CDC so let's take a look at them.

The latest data is from 2011 which reports 32,351 gun deaths. So that's murders by gun owners, right? The answer is it's **not even close**.

Straight from the CDC where most of the media is drawing their numbers we find that of those 32,352 gun deaths, **21,175 were suicides**, leaving 11,177. The FBI records that 8,583 were murders. The remaining roughly 2,500 were due to accidents and unintentional injuries.

What sorts of guns are used? I bring this up because each mass shooting elicits calls for an "assault weapons" ban on guns like the AR-15 style rifle. Are those popular in crimes?

The FBI reports that of the actual 8,583 gun murders, **323** were committed with "rifles." And that's all

rifles, including bolt action, deer rifles and all the rest. The number committed with so called "assault rifles" were a fraction of that. Compare rifle murders to **nearly 1,700 who were stabbed, nearly 500 murdered with blunt objects and more than 700 beaten to death by bare hands**. Enough said on that topic.

So we're down to 8,583 intentional killings. That's still one heck of a lot of bodies, and surely enough to justify new background checks and other restrictions on legal gun purchases, right? Again... *not even close*. The Justice Department admits that the numbers are simply too hard to pin down. The vast majority of guns used in crimes were gotten through illegal means. Roughly one quarter of inmates convicted of gun crimes admitted to having stolen a gun. Another 2004 study showed that 40% of convicts bought their guns on the black market and another 37% got them through the "gray market" in various illegal methods.

Legally purchased weapons accounted for somewhere between six and eight percent of all murders. The majority of those were domestic violence incidents, violence between family members, crimes of passion and murders committed by the insane. But let's give the gun grabbers the benefit of the doubt, round it up and say that ten percent were committed with legally purchased guns. That works out to around 850, too many but a far cry from 32,351....

-- www.hotair.com October 4, 2015

'Oath Keepers' to form college chapters to stop students from 'cooperating in their own murders'

In the wake of the deadly massacre at an Oregon community college, the controversial Oath Keepers militia group revealed a new plan last week to prevent school shootings, announcing its intention to form college and high school chapters to train students to "fight back."

In an Oct. 9 statement posted on the group's website, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes wrote that the "obvious answer to school shootings on college and high school campuses is that the students must stop submitting and cooperating in their own murders. They must fight back, and we will show them how."

The school chapters will be set up as part of the Oath Keepers' S.T.O.P. (Students Taking Over Protection Program), according to the statement.

"Oath Keepers military, police and first-responder instructors will teach the students to fight back with empty hands, improvised weapons, knives, and firearms, and will teach them effective combat mindset and awareness techniques and strategies so the students can be their own "first-responders" and take out an active shooter," the statement reads.

Mr. Rhodes argued that the students murdered at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, died because they were "conditioned" to be "passive, submissive and non-violent."

He warned that this "conditioning" makes children "submissive" not only to mass shootings, but also to "government violence, abuse, and oppression."

In an interview with Red List News, Rhodes and media director Jason. Van Tatenhove warned that anti-bullying programs in schools, specifically, are "brainwashing children" into being "docile."

"Whether it's an active shooter that kills them, or later on a death camp somewhere down the road because they've been conditioned never to fight back," Van Tatenhove warned, "it only leads to death."

The group will form its first student chapter at Umpqua Community College, where the group's local chapter leader, Rob Price, is an alumni.

The group was formed by Mr. Rhodes, a former paratrooper and Yale Law School graduate, in 2004 and now claims more than 30,000 members, mostly former military, police and first responders.

The Southern Poverty Law Center describes the Oath Keepers as a "fiercely anti-government, militaristic group."

-- Washington Times, October 14, 2015

FBI: Violent crime down in U.S.

The FBI says crime rates, including murder, were down last year.

The annual Uniform Crime Report released Monday come amid lingering tension between police officers and minority communities

To that end, FBI Director James Comey said that the FBI plans to collect more data about shootings of civilians by law enforcement. He called on more law enforcement agencies to submit data on so-called justifiable homicides.

The FBI report shows a 0.2% decline nationwide in violent crimes in

2014, with more than 11 million arrests for almost a half-million violent crimes.

In 2014 the U.S. recorded the fewest murders since 2009. Most other violent crimes, such as robbery, burglary, theft and arson have declined, while aggravated assaults and rapes, which now includes a broader definition, were on the rise in 2014.

Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates highlighted progress made for cities compared to decades past.

"We have witnessed a remarkable drop in crime since the 1980's -- both violent crime and crime overall. Entire cities have been transformed," Yates said, adding that "even though crime is trending downward in most places, we are seeing pockets of rising violence in various locations across the country [such as Washington, Baltimore, Milwaukee and other cities]."

-- cnn.com 2015/09/28

How to delete everything you've said to Google

Whether you're asking directions or drunkenly swearing Google, never forgets, recording everything you've ever said to it

Users of Google's voice-control features such as OK Google are probably aware that the company stores the voice recordings it receives when they talk to it. But it's still a bit of a shock to be confronted with a list of all the recordings the company has ever made of you.

If you have (or have ever had) an Android phone with Google's "OK Google" voice-control system, the page should show a list of every command you have ever given it -- replete with a little play button next to it.

Turning voice Activity off doesn't stop Google storing your recordings, but it means they get kept with an anonymous identifier, and can't be easily linked back to your account. If you want to stop Google recording your voice at all, well, there's only one solution: stop talking to it.

-- theguardian.com 13 October 2015

Why there is no viable solution to America's gun problem

By Damon Linker

Read (or reread) Jeffrey Goldberg's essential, demoralizing 2012 essay from The Atlantic. Goldberg makes a persuasive case that the best policy solution to lowering the body count is to go in the opposite direction from seeking to ban and

confiscate guns. Instead, we should encourage more people to carry firearms on them in public. See someone open fire on a crowd? Don't cower in fear. Aim and fire back. The end result might be three fatalities rather than 13.

If you want to see a dramatic drop in the number of firearm deaths -- especially in mass shootings like Sandy Hook and Aurora, Colorado -- this probably has a greater chance of getting us there than a constitutionally dubious and politically impossible effort at widespread gun restriction or confiscation.

But it's also a stunning admission of defeat -- a confession that when it comes to protecting Americans from deadly violence, the government is close to powerless to stop it.

As Max Weber argued nearly a century ago, the state can be defined as the institution that possesses a monopoly on the legitimate use of force within any given territory. Goldberg's proposal represents a devolution of this monopoly on violence to private individuals. Doubting the state's capacity to protect us, Goldberg would have us revert back to something like a Hobbesian state of nature in which we're reduced to drawing our own weapons and employing deadly force in public to defend ourselves against lethal violence unleashed by other citizens.

The technical term for that is anarchy -- a war of each against all -- though it could also be described as life at the O.K. Corral. And if Goldberg is right, this may well be the best that Americans can hope for.

That's depressing. But sometimes the truth is like that.

-- theweek.com August 28, 2015

Director Of 'Goodfellas' Joins Campaign for Destruction Of Guns

By AWR Hawkins

Director Martin Scorsese--well known for violent films like Goodfellas, The Departed, and Casino--has joined a campaign for the destruction of guns.

Scorsese will take part in Carl McCrow's "Gun Neutral Campaign," which asks that a real gun be destroyed for every fake gun that is used in a Hollywood production.

In 2014 McCrow was a part of a London-based gun control group called One Less Gun. The group was asking for donations to cover the

destruction of a firearm for which the donor would receive a thank you note in the form of a bullet casing with the serial number of the weapon destroyed etched upon it.

By joining the gun control push after making untold millions of dollars creating films riddled with violence, murder and depictions of criminal gun use, Scorsese comes across much like gun-toting action star Liam Neeson who emerged after the January 7 terror attacks on Charlie Hebdo headquarters in France to say, "There are too many [bleeping] guns out there, especially in America."

-- www.breitbart.com August 24, 2015

Mother Jones: Fewer Deaths Per Mass Shooting in U.S. Versus Attacks Abroad

By AWR Hawkins

On August 23, Mother Jones published an article showing that fewer people are killed in "public mass shootings" in the U.S. versus other countries.

Ironically, this tidbit of information was contained in an article aimed at showing that the U.S. has more "public mass shootings" than any other country but which ended up showing that, while you cannot completely eliminate "public mass shootings," you can make them end much, much faster.

Drawing from a study by University of Alabama associate professor Adam Lankford, Mother Jones reports that the U.S. had "90 public mass shootings" over a period of 46 years, spanning 1966 to 2012. That breaks down to about 1.95 "public mass shootings" a year.

However, while there were reportedly more attacks in the U.S., there were fewer deaths per incident.

Mother Jones reports that there were an average of "6.9 victims" killed in each attack in the U.S. versus an average of "8.8 victims" killed in each attack in other countries. Mother Jones said Lankford credited the lower death rate in the U.S. to the fact that American police "respond more quickly and are often heavily armed."

In other words, good guys with guns come running.

-- www.breitbart.com August 23, 2015

Man robbed of his gun, nearly killed with it. Solution: Security holster

[Regarding a Philadelphia incident in which a man who poorly concealed his handgun had it taken

from him by a robber in a crime of opportunity]

While it is very rare for a gun owner to have his gun taken and used against him, it can happen. If you are carrying openly or are not concealing the gun completely, you need to have a security holster, preferably a level II holster. An example of a level II holster is the Blackhawk Serpa holster, requiring a button or a lever to be pressed on the draw stroke to release the gun.

Openly carrying in the small of your back is a particularly bad way to carry if you wish to avoid having the gun snatched from the holster by somebody standing directly behind you.

Finally, situational awareness, no matter how you carry, is always important.

-- VA-ALERT 9/30/ 2015

IS fatwa 'inspired beheading plot by UK trio'

Three men accused of plotting to carry out a beheading in the UK were inspired by a fatwa issued by so-called Islamic State, a court has heard.

Nadir Ali Syed, 22, from Hounslow, west London, Yousaf Shah Syed, 20, from High Wycombe and Haseeb Hamayoon, 28, from Hayes, west London, deny the charges.

The prosecution alleges they were inspired by a fatwa - or decree - to kill Westerners.

Prosecutor Max Hill QC said the fatwa, issued by Islamic State (IS) spokesman Abu Muhammad Al Adnani in September 2014, called on Muslims to arm themselves and attack "disbelieving" Westerners.

He said: "It urged followers to rise up against westerners and 'rig the roads with explosives for them. Attack their bases. Raid their homes. Cut off their heads'.

"It went on: 'If you are not able to find an IED (improvised explosive device) or a bullet then single out the disbelieving American, Frenchman or any of their allies.

'Smash his head with a rock, or slaughter him with a knife, or run him over with your car, or throw him from a high place, or choke him or poison him'."

The three men were arrested during police raids in November last year.

Jurors heard the three men had been inspired by Michael Adebowale and Michael Adebolajo, who ran-over and hacked to death Fusilier Lee Rigby near Woolwich barracks in South London in May 2013.

Mr Hill said, "All three were extreme and unnaturally interested in murders and beheadings. They were interested in killing by the use of knives."

The trial continues.
--www.bbc.com October 12, 2015

Former ISIS hostage says 'Jihadi John' beat him, forced him to dance Tango

A Danish photographer who endured months of torture at the hands of Islamic State extremists says the terrorist killer known as "Jihadi John" forced him to stand for days and dance the Tango.

Daniel Rye Ottosen, 26-- the last ISIS hostage to be released alive last June-- revealed details about his experience in an interview Sunday with Denmark radio network DR.

The identity of "Jihadi John"-- the British terrorist infamous for beheading at least 4 hostages--became public last spring. Mohammed Emwazi, 26, was born in Kuwait, raised in London, and graduated from Westminster University before going to Syria in 2013 to fight with ISIS.

"Do you want to dance?" Ottosen remembers Emwazi asking. "Then he took me up, and we were supposed to dance the Tango together, John and I. He led me around the prison and then suddenly it just changed and he threw me down and kicked and hit me."

"Then they ended by threatening to cut my nose off with side-cutting pliers and such things," Ottosen added.

Ottosen said that after his arrest he was repeatedly tortured for about two weeks in a cell in Aleppo, as the rebels tried to force him to confess to being a CIA spy.

"They were very good at torturing," Ottosen said. The most brutal torture involved being forced to stand for days on end.

Ottosen was released in June last year after his family paid a 1.5 million pounds or \$3.2 million to ISIS. Much of the ransom came from a Facebook fundraising campaign mounted by Ottosen's sister.

The payment has been controversial, as Emwazi in the following months went on to behead Ottoman's fellow captives. Both the American and British governments forbade the hostages' families from giving in to ISIS demands.

-- www.foxnews.com October 12, 2015

Man Gets Year in Prison for 'Swatting'

"Swatting", for those unfamiliar, is when people call law enforcement to report a fake emergency to get SWAT deployed to a specific location, like someone's home—something Lil Wayne was a victim of earlier this year—sometimes resulting in victims being attacked or arrested by police. Swatting is now a federal crime.

Matthew Tollis, 22, is getting prison time for his involvement in six swatting incidents in 2014, according to the Department of Justice. Tollis, as a member of a group called "Team Crucifix or Die," faked a bomb threat to the University of Connecticut. Tollis was also involved in threats to three high schools, two in New Jersey and one in Texas, as well as threats directed at Boston University and the Boston Convention Center.

Tollis was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison, in addition to three years of supervised release and 300 hours of community service.

-- yahoo.com October 12, 2015

Review: *Police State* by Gerry Spence

We all want to feel safe. But safe from what, and from whom?

In his 60-plus years as a trial lawyer, Gerry Spence has never represented a person accused of a crime in which the police hadn't themselves violated the law. Whether by covering up their own corrupt dealings, by the falsification or manufacture of evidence, or by the outright murder of innocent civilians, those individuals charged with upholding the law too often break it, in ways more scandalous than the courts have dared admit. The police and prosecutors won't charge or convict themselves, and so the crimes of the criminal justice system are swept under the rug. *Nothing changes.*

Too many police officers are killers on the loose, and every uninformed American is a potential next victim. Police culture is mired in the dead weight of precedent and ruled by trigger-happy tyrants. Power will march

our nation over the police state precipice unless We the People take action.

The FBI's massacre of the Weaver family at Ruby Ridge; the killing of mortally wounded Fouad Kaady by a group of police officers; the torture of teenaged Dennis Williams by cops seeking a murder confession - again and again, the question arises: When the very men and women we pay to protect us instead persecute us, how can we be safe? In *Police State*, Spence issues a stinging indictment of the American justice system and puts forth a plan to restore liberty and justice for all.

-- Blurb, Amazon.com Oct. 14, 2015

Ed.: Spence successfully defended Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris from federal charges resulting from the Ruby Ridge assault by federal police.

UM law professor challenges campus gun ban

Citing an amendment voters added to the Missouri Constitution last year, a University of Missouri School of Law professor has initiated a lawsuit challenging MU's campus gun ban.

Columbia attorney Jennifer Bukowsky filed the lawsuit Saturday in Cole County Circuit Court on behalf of Associate Professor Royce de R. Barondes. The suit contends a rule prohibiting firearms on campus violates a state law that allows for a gun to be stored in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.

The ban also violates the state constitution and the second and 14th amendments to the federal Constitution by not allowing Barondes to carry a gun with a valid concealed carry permit in his car while on campus, the lawsuit alleges. Barondes is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, the lawsuit says.

The suit names the UM Board of Curators and UM System President Tim Wolfe as defendants. Bukowsky cites recent events on or near campus and Barondes' desire to be able to carry a concealed weapon lawfully for self-protection as reasons for filing the suit.

-- columbiatribune.com Sept. 21, 2015

21 most consequential Clinton scandals, ranked from most important

1. Monica Lewinsky: Led to only the second president in American history to be impeached.

2. Benghazi: Four Americans killed, the credibility of a president and his secretary of state damaged.

3. Asia fundraising scandal: More than forty convicted in a scandal that made the Lincoln bedroom, White House donor coffees and Buddhist monks infamous.

4. Hillary's private emails: Hundreds of national secrets already leaked, the specter of a criminal probe looming large.

5. Whitewater: A large S&L failed and several people went to prison.

6. Travelgate: The firing of the career travel office was the very first crony capitalism scandal of the Clinton era.

7. Humagate: An aide's sweetheart job arrangement.

8. Pardongate: Donations were connected as possible motives for presidential pardons.

9. Foundation favors: Evidence that the Clinton Foundation was a pay-to-play back door to the State Department for foreigners to curry favor.

10. Mysterious files: The disappearance and re-discovery of Hillary's Rose Law Firm records.

11. Filegate: The Clinton use of FBI files to dig for dirt on their enemies.

12. Hubble trouble: The resignation and imprisonment of Hillary law partner Web Hubble.

13. The Waco tragedy: One of the most lethal exercises of police power in American history.

14. The Clinton's Swedish slush fund: \$26 million collected overseas with little accountability and lots of questions about whether contributors got a pass on Iran sanctions.

15. Troopergate: From the good old days, did Arkansas state troopers facilitate Bill Clinton's philandering?

-- Washington Times, October 12, 2015

Ed.: We only had room for 15.

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